



Afternoon Alert - Friday, March 30, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, TBS, and Fuji TV led with reports that the GOJ decided to hold the ceremony for enthroning the next emperor on October 22, 2019. NTV gave top play to a report that opposition parties are grilling Finance Minister Aso over his comment that Japanese newspapers think the Moritomo Gakuen scandal is more important than the TPP 11 agreement. TV Asahi reported that Shohei Otani got a hit in the season opener in his debut with the Los Angeles Angels.

INTERNATIONAL

PM Abe meets with families of Japanese abductees

NHK reported at noon that PM Abe met with the families of the Japanese abductees at the Kantei today and told them that he will ask President Trump at the planned Japan-U.S. summit next month to call on North Korea to resolve the abduction issue when he meets with Kim Jong Un. The network showed Shigeo Iizuka, who heads a group representing abductees' families, telling the premier: "This is a great opportunity. It would be troubling if we don't take advantage of it. I hope all the summit meetings will lead to the return of the abductees." In response, Abe reportedly said: "My mission will not end until the abductees and their families can embrace each other. I will reiterate Japan's position especially on the abduction issue at the U.S.-Japan summit."

- [N. Korea's elite told a summit with Japan could come in June](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [CCS Suga hints at contact with North Korea on holding bilateral summit](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan hails S. Korea's efforts toward denuclearization of N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Why does the West increasingly distrust Russia?](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Will Japan turn a blind eye to sanctions against Russia?](#) (Sankei)
- [S. Korea condemns Japan's renewed claim to islets, summons diplomat](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan pledges 100 bil. yen in loans for Mumbai subway](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Build cooperation among countries to end N. Korea's nuclear ambition](#) (The

Japan News)

- [Editorial: Diplomatic game begins following Xi-Kim summit](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Commentary: Japan needs to be responsive to situation after China-DPRK summit](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cartoon: Abe out in the cold](#) (Mainichi)

ECONOMY

- [Japan to place renewable as “major” energy source in long-term plan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Ruling parties to agree to limit the number of IRs with casinos to “two or three”](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan-U.S. economic relations can overcome protectionism](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Japanese investors show strong appetite for foreign stocks](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Unregulated ICOs threaten funding source for startups](#) (The Japan Times)
- [TEPCO, Tohoku Electric to give Japan Atomic financial boost to help restart reactor](#) (The Mainichi)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on March 29, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP factions voice concern about Moritomo scandal](#) (Mainichi)
- [LDP heavyweight Takeshita says Abe’s wife has caused gov’t trouble](#) (The Mainichi)
- [DP may split up again over forming new party with Party of Hope](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga](#) (Asahi)

SECURITY

- [Japan-U.S. alliance stronger under 2-yr-old security laws: gov’t](#) (Kyodo News)

SOCIETY

- [India to dispatch 1st batch of technical interns to Japan](#) (Kyodo News)